

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (currently amended)A storage system, comprising:

a controller, coupled to at least one of a plurality of host computers, and controlling to-transfer of data sent from said host computer to a plurality of storage regions;

a data line having a serial interface which is a type different from a Serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) interface and coupled to said controller, said data line and being used to relay data from/to said controller;

a plurality of converters, coupled to said data line, and converting between said serial interface and said SATA interface;

a plurality of SATA disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said SATA disk drives having said serial interface and each of said SATA disk drives having one of said converters built-in; and

a plurality of first disk drive units coupled to said data line and each of said first disk drive units having one of said SATA disk drives and each of said first disk drive units having said serial interface.

20. (currently amended)A storage system according to claim 19, wherein:
said serial interface is a Fibre Channel (FC) interface.

21. (currently amended) A storage system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a plurality of another type disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said another type disk drives having a serial interface which is a type different type from said SATA interface; and

a plurality of second disk drive units coupled to said data line and each of said second disk drive units having one of said another type disk drives and each of said second disk drive units having said serial interface.

22. (currently amended) A storage system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a plurality of Fibre Channel (FC) disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said FC disk drives having a FC interface and each of said FC disk drives not having one of said converters; and

a plurality of second disk drive units each having one of said FC disk drives; and

wherein said serial interface is a FC interface.

23. (currently amended) A storage system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a FC disk drive having some of said storage regions and said FC disk drive having a FC interface and said FC disk drives having none of said converters; and

a second disk drive unit coupled to said data line and said second disk drive unit having said FC disk drive and ~~said second disk drive unit having said FC interface~~;

wherein said data line is a Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop (FC-AL).

24. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a plurality of FC disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said FC disk drives having a FC interface and each of said FC disk drives having none of said converters;

a plurality of second disk drive units each having one of said FC disk drives;

a housing having said first disk drive units and said second disk drive units; and

a rack having said housing and an another housing, said rack in which said housing and said another housing are stacked.

25. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a plurality of another type disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said another type disk drives having said serial interface and each of said another type disk drives having none of said converters;

a plurality of second disk drive units each having one of said another type disk drives;

a plurality of housings having a first housing and a second housing, said first housing having said first disk drive units, and said second housing having said second disk drive units; and

a rack having said housings and said rack in which said first housing and said second housing are stacked.

26. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein said data line is a Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop (FC-AL).

Claims 27 and 28 (Canceled).

29. (currently amended) A storage system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a power supply coupled to said first disk drive units by at least one of power lines and supplying power to said first disk drive units; and

a power controller coupled to said power supply and controlling to supply power to said first disk drive units;

wherein at least one of said first disk drive units relays a control signal sent from said controller to said power controller.

30. (currently amended) A storage system according to claim 19, further comprising:

a plurality of FC disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said FC disk drives having a FC interface and each of said FC disk drives having none of said converters;

a plurality of second disk drive units each having one of said FC disk drives; and

wherein some storage regions of said SATA disk drives form a first logical unit, said first logical unit is an object to store data sent from said host computers which is coupled to said controller;

wherein some storage regions of said FC disk drives form a second logical unit; and

wherein each of said first logical unit and said second logical unit has a logical unit number.

31. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein some of said SATA disk drives are used to store data, the data are used to back up.

32. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:
a controller, coupled to at least one of a plurality of information processing devices, and controlling to transfer of data sent from said information processing device devices to a plurality of storage regions;
a data line having a Fibre Channel (FC) interface and coupled to said controller and being used to relay data from/to said controller;

a plurality of converters coupled to said data line and converting between said FC interface and said Serial Advanced Technology AT-Attachment (SATA) interface;

a plurality of SATA disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said SATA disk drives being bolted to said FC interface and each of said SATA disk drives having one of said converters built-in; and

a plurality of first disk drive units coupled to said data line and each of said first disk drive units having one of said SATA disk drives and each of said first disk drive units having said FC interface.

33. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:

a controller, coupled to at least one of information processing devices, and controlling to-transfer of data sent from said information processing devices to a plurality of storage regions;

a data line having a Fibre Channel (FC) interface and coupled to said controller and being used to relay data from/to said controller;

a plurality of converters coupled to said data line and converting between said FC interface and a Serial Advanced Technology AT-Attachment (SATA) interface;

a plurality of SATA disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said SATA disk drives having said FC interface and each of said SATA disk drives having installed therein one of said converters; and

a plurality of SATA disk drive units coupled to said data line and each of said SATA disk drive units having one of said SATA disk drives and each of said SATA disk drive units having said FC interface.

34. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:

- a controller, coupled to at least one of information processing devices, and controlling ~~to-transfer of~~ data sent from said information processing devices to a plurality of storage regions;
- a data line having a serial interface which is of a type different type from a Serial Advanced Technology AT-Attachment (SATA) interface and coupled to said controller and being used to relay data from/to said controller;
- a plurality of converters, coupled to said data line, and converting between said serial interface and said SATA interface;
- a plurality of SATA disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said SATA disk drives having said serial interface and each of said SATA disk drives having one of said converters built-in; and
- a plurality of first disk drive units coupled to said data line and each of said first disk drive units having one of said SATA disk drives and each of said first disk drive units having said serial interface.

35. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:

a controller, coupled to at least one of information processing devices, and controlling to transfer data sent from said information processing devices to a plurality of storage regions;

a data line having a Fibre Channel (FC) interface and coupled to said controller and being used to relay data from/to said controller;

a plurality of converters coupled to said data line and converting between said FC interface and aan Advanced Technology AT-Attachment (ATA) interface;

a plurality of ATA disk drives having some of said storage regions and each of said ATA disk drives having said FC interface and each of said ATA disk drives having installed therein one of said converters; and

a plurality of ATA disk drive units coupled to said data line and each of said ATA disk drive units having one of said ATA disk drives and each of said ATA disk drive units having said FC interface.